



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Ed Maddox 213-361-6980  
[emaddox@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:emaddox@bos.lacounty.gov)

### **AIDS EFFORTS IN LA COUNTY EXPANDED BY \$300,000 COMMITMENT TO T.H.E. CLINIC**

**LOS ANGELES** – Los Angeles County Supervisors approved a three year grant of \$300,000 for the To Help Everyone Clinic (T.H.E.) to support AIDS targeted and routine testing in the County.

“Increasing the number of citizens who know their HIV status is critical with regard to preventing new infections and extending the lives of those who are unaware of their status by getting more individuals into treatment,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas.

Last year, Los Angeles County was identified as one of 26 jurisdictions in the country that had 140 or more deaths of African Americans as a result of AIDS. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that there are approximately 13,000 undiagnosed individuals in the County this year.

“This initiative is consistent with President Obama’s National Aids Strategy which was announced on July 13, 2010, and which calls on all communities to reduce infections, increase access to treatment for people living with HIV, and reduce HIV related health disparities throughout the nation,” added Ridley-Thomas. “We are confronting this problem by investing significant resources to stop the spread of this terrible disease before it claims more victims, particularly those who have no idea that they are already infected.”

Funding to support AIDS efforts by T.H.E. started with a grant of \$700,000 in 2008 by the County which supported testing of high risk populations in the Second District and other areas of the County known to have high numbers of individuals with AIDS. The expanded grant will support increased efforts at the St. John’s Clinic, Hubert H.

Humphrey Comprehensive Center, and other efforts in the Second District coordinated by T.H.E.

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